

October 12, 2012

Weekly Views

Dr. Bill Saye visited Madison Correctional Facility on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. He shared the story of his involvement with organized crime. He also shared how he came to Christ while he was incarcerated and how his involvement with organized crime cost his wife her life and nearly cost his daughters' life as well. Approximately 270 offenders involved in the GRIP, RRRP, and Transition programs attended the testimony.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held a Blessing of the Animals. The service commemorates the life of St. Francis of Assisi, who is remembered



for his love for all creatures. The dogs and handlers from the FIDO and ICAN program at CIF gathered outside in a circle around Chaplain David Smith who after a short prayer went to each pair and said a blessing. Chaplain Smith also visited C-dorm where he blessed the cats in the 9-lives program. The bond between the offenders and their animals are like no other relationship, and the love they give to their pets, and receive from the pets, has been shown to draw them more deeply into the larger circle of life and help prepare them for re-entry into society.

Branchville Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for the PLUS Program. Dr. Hall addressed the 38 graduates and wished them well in their future endeavors. Approximately 10 visitors and numerous volunteers attended to show their support/dedication to the graduates and the program.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted a retirement dinner honoring Superintendent Keith Butts. Mr. Butts is retiring after 33 years with the Department, effective October 13, 2012. Mr. Butts will go on to serve as the Superintendent of New Castle Correctional Facility. Commissioner presented Mr. Butts with a plaque recognizing his years of service.



Indiana State Prison received several awards at the ICJA Conference. The Indiana Correctional Justice Association awarded the facility for the program of the year for the Apprenticeship Program; Pam James received the Support Staff of the Year, and Lt. Jason Nowatzke for Canine Handler of the Year.

The Westville Correctional Facility hosted its first ever Offender Catholic retreat. The retreat was a daylong event sponsored by and included many Priests and volunteers from Northwest IN and Ohio. It featured small group sessions, confession, a traditional mass and communion served by Bishop Dale Melczek from

the Gary Diocese. From a list of many, ninety offenders were selected to participate. The sponsors assured us they are interested in making the retreat an annual event.

Bill Glass' "Champions For Life" event came to Camp Summit facility recently. The event included speakers and performers that entertained and gave students positive and powerful information on setting goals and meeting the everyday challenges of life. One of the guest speakers was former NFL Offensive lineman Shawn Harper, who played for the Los Angeles Rams and the Indianapolis Colts before retiring in 2000. Mr. Harper, demonstrated his physical strength by



Pendleton Juvenile held a Family Fun Night. The students and families enjoyed treats and played games. Staff interacted with the families, encouraging stronger relationships to help prepare for the students' release.

bending a frying pan with his bare hands which captivated the students. He then went on to tell the students about his early experiences growing up and the lessons he learned in overcoming adversity.

Staff from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) participated in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs' (SPEA) 25th Annual Career Information Day. The Event was held at the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis's (IUPUI) Fall Career Week. IREF staff answered questions from several of the 450 Criminal Justice and Public Safety undergraduate and graduates students about career and internship opportunities within the IDOC and IREF.

Forty-one members of the Covenant Choir (Goshen, IN) visited the Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility. The choir members taught attendees how to sing using sign language. The performance lasted over two hours. Attendees stated they really enjoyed the program.



Volunteers in the community help support the facility by providing materials for the offenders in the IWP Community Outreach program. The women are busy creating blankets, bags and dog beds to support the ICAN "Decade of Dogs" project to be held on November 10at the Indiana Roof Ballroom Downtown Indianapolis.